

**CLAIMS**

1. Mower comprising:

- a hitching structure (8) intended to be connected to a motor vehicle (2);
- a cutting mechanism (5) extending during work transversely to a direction of advance (4);
- a carrier beam (14) connected on one hand to the hitching structure (8) by means of a first pivot articulation (9) with a horizontal axis and on another hand to the cutting mechanism (5) by means of a second pivot articulation (15) whose axis is substantially parallel to the axis of the first articulation (9);
- a maneuvering device (10) intended to bring the cutting mechanism (5) from a working position, in which it rests at least partially on the ground, to a maneuvering position in which the cutting mechanism (5) extends somewhat above the ground, and vice versa;
- a lightening device (11) intended to transfer at least a part of the weight of the cutting mechanism (5) onto the hitching structure (8), the lightening device (11) comprising a hydraulic cylinder (12) fed with oil by at least one hydropneumatic accumulator (13) by means of a first pipe (16), the hydraulic cylinder (12) being arranged so as to exert an upward torque on the cutting mechanism (5);

characterized in that the maneuvering device (10) consists of a cylinder (17) whose interior is divided into two chambers (18, 19) by a floating piston (20), in that a first chamber (19) of the chambers (18, 19) is connected to the hydraulic cylinder (12) by means of a second pipe (21) and in that the other chamber (18) is connected to a hydraulic circuit of the motor vehicle (2) by means of a third pipe (22) so as to be able to inject from the first chamber (19) an additional

5        quantity of oil into the hydraulic cylinder (12) of the lightening device to bring the cutting mechanism (5) from the working position into the maneuvering position, and to be able to extract the same quantity of oil from the hydraulic cylinder (12) to bring the cutting mechanism (5) from the maneuvering position into the working position.

10      2. Mower as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a three-way valve (26) is provided, the inlet of the valve (26) being connected to the hydraulic circuit of the motor vehicle (2) by means of a fourth pipe (27), one outlet of the valve (26) being connected to the third pipe (22), and the other outlet of the valve (26) being connected to the first pipe (16).

15      3. Mower as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a flow limiter (38) is provided on the fourth pipe (27).

20      4. Mower as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that an anti-return valve (39) is provided, mounted in parallel with the flow limiter (38) on the fourth pipe (27).

25      5. Mower as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the carrier beam (14) is additionally connected to the hitching structure (8) by means of a third pivot articulation (29) with an upward-directed axis, and in that a second hydraulic cylinder (30) is provided, connected on one hand to the hitching structure (8) and on another hand to the carrier beam (14) in order to pivot rearward the cutting mechanism (5) and the carrier beam (14) about the third articulation (29) during transport.

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6. Mower as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that  
the second hydraulic cylinder (30) comprises a  
first chamber (31) and a second chamber (32)  
delimited by a piston (33), the first chamber (31)  
being connected to the hydraulic circuit of the  
motor vehicle (2) by means of a fifth pipe (35).  
  
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7. Mower as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that  
the second chamber (32) is connected to the third  
pipe (22) by means of a sixth pipe (36).  
  
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8. Mower as claimed in claim 7, characterized in  
that, on the sixth pipe (36), a directional  
control valve (37) is provided that can occupy two  
positions.  
  
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